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Commission on Sustainable Development
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Third session
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Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests:
   (a) Promoting and facilitating implementation;
   (b) Monitoring progress in implementation.
3. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process:
   (a) Need for financial resources;
   (b) Trade and environment;
   (c) Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management;
   (d) Issues that need further clarification:
      (i) Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation;
      (ii) Traditional forest-related knowledge;
      (iii) Forest conservation and protected areas;
      (iv) Forest research;
      (v) Valuation of forest goods and services;
      (vi) Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure;
      (vii) Future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forest products;

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(viii) Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas;

(e) Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments.

4. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

5. Other matters.

6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum.

7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

At its first session, the Forum stressed the need for a focused and balanced approach to its work in relation to its mandate, as contained in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex) and reconfirmed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/65. The Forum emphasized that there was a need to build on the positive results achieved by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and that the focus should be on implementation of the proposals for action and on issues on which international consensus had yet to be achieved. In the light of these considerations, the Forum decided that the work of its forthcoming sessions should be conducted under three interlinked categories, which should receive balanced intergovernmental attention. The resulting programme elements, which will be considered at the third session under agenda items 2–4, are:

Programme elements of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests*

I. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests:

a. Promoting and facilitating implementation;

b. Monitoring progress in implementation.

II. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process:

a. Need for financial resources;

b. Trade and environment;

c. Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management;

* See E/CN.17/IFF/1997/4, para. 7.

d. Issues that need further clarification:

(i) Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation;

(ii) Traditional forest-related knowledge;

(iii) Forest conservation and protected areas;

(iv) Forest research;

(v) Valuation of forest goods and services;

(vi) Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure;

(vii) Future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forests products;

(viii) Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas;

e. Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments.

III. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Following the guidance as regards modalities of work provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decision establishing the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, which was approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1995/226, intergovernmental organizations and the full range of non-governmental organizations and other groups may participate as observers in the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests on an open-ended and fully participatory basis, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practice of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests draws, *inter alia*, on the resources and technical expertise of the informal, high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests and other appropriate organizations within and outside the United Nations system, as well as secretariats of relevant conventions, with appropriate contributions from non-governmental organizations. The Forum encourages inputs from major groups in all the activities in its programme of work.

At the second session, the Forum reiterated the importance of expert meetings organized by Governments to conduct studies in support of the Forum's work, and welcomed in particular a number of specific initiatives which were expected to provide a valuable expert input to its future deliberations.

The Forum reiterated the understanding reached at its first session that all categories of the programme of work included in its mandate will remain open until the fourth session.

At the second session of the Forum, substantive discussions were held on programme elements I.a (Promoting and facilitating implementation), II.b (Trade and environment), II.c (Transfer of environmentally sound technologies) and II.e (Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments). At the third session, "update" discussion will be held on these programme elements.

Programme elements that were the subject of background discussion during the second session and that will be discussed substantively at the third session are programme elements I.b (Monitoring progress in implementation), II.a (Need for financial resources), II.d (i)–(viii) (Issues that need further clarification) and III (International arrangements and

mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests).

As at its previous sessions, the Forum will establish in-session working groups, on the understanding that no more than two working groups will meet simultaneously. The proposed organization of work of the third session of the Forum is contained in annex I below.

The membership of the Forum is listed in annex II below.

2. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests:

(a) Promoting and facilitating implementation

Under this sub-item, which is for **background discussion**, the Forum will consider a brief note by the Secretariat. As this programme element is important to many countries, it is possible that some new ideas will be introduced during the discussion.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on promoting and facilitating implementation (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/2)

(b) Monitoring progress in implementation

Under this sub-item, which is for **substantive discussion**, the Forum will consider a report of the Secretary-General, which, based on the guidance provided by the Forum at its second session, provides preliminary proposals for reporting on legislation, policies, programmes and processes on the one hand, and trends in the state of all types of forests on the other. It also includes a short discussion of the integration of reporting systems among various processes and instruments, as well as the technical, financial and political constraints to reviewing, monitoring and reporting on forests. It concludes by proposing a few options for further action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring progress in implementation (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/3)

3. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process:

(a) Need for financial resources

The report of the Secretary-General under this sub-item, which is for **substantive discussion**, points out that the forest sector in most developing countries has substantial needs for funding in the area of sustainable forest management but is constrained by many factors. Some of these constraints and potential financial mechanisms to address them are discussed in the report, and section III thereof provides detailed conclusions and proposals for action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the need for financial resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/4)

(b) Trade and environment

Substantive discussions on this sub-item at the second session resulted in a heavily bracketed text with conclusions and proposal for action (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14, sect. II.B). At the third session, the issue is for **update discussion**, and the Forum will have before it a brief note by the Secretariat. It stresses the need to continue the analysis and negotiations within the Forum of the full text in order to achieve some results and further consensus during the third session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on trade and environment (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/5)

(c) Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management

Discussions on this sub-item at the second session resulted in an equally heavily bracketed text (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14, sect. II.C). Some of the issues are very controversial and it is unlikely that they can be fully resolved at the third session. At the third session, the Forum will revisit the sub-item, which is for **update discussion**, and seek to resolve those paragraphs on which consensus has yet to be achieved.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/6)

(d) Issues that need further clarification

This sub-item, which is for **substantive discussion**, contains eight separate topics. The background deliberations at the second session resulted in Co-Chairmen's summaries on all eight topics (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14, sect. II.D and E), with instructions to the Secretariat to prepare documents for each one at the third session. Accordingly, the Forum will consider eight separate reports by the Secretary-General, as well as three reports on related international processes.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on issues that need further clarification:

Underlying causes of deforestation (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/7)

Traditional forest-related knowledge (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/8)

Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/9)

Forest conservation and protected areas (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/10)

Forest research (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/11)

Valuation of forest goods and services (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/12)

Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/13)

Future supply of and demand for wood products and non-wood forest products (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/14)

Letter dated 2 February 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Austria and Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the International Consultation on Research and Information Systems in Forestry (Gmunden, Austria, 7–10 September 1998) (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/17)

Letter dated 16 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Global Workshop on the Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation (San José, Costa Rica, 18–22 January 1999) (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/18)

Letter dated 9 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Chairman of the International Cooperative Programme on the Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/19)

(e) Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments

Substantive discussion of this sub-item at the second session resulted in a bracket-free text (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14, sect. II.F). However, the Forum requested the Secretariat to conduct further analysis, and at the third session, for an **update discussion** on this sub-item, the Forum will have before it a note partly based on a survey conducted by the Secretariat.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/15)

4. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

This item will be for **substantive discussion**, at the third session. At the second session, discussions resulted in a Co-Chairmen's summary (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14, sect. III), which outlined some general discussion but mainly provided guidance for future work. It is hoped that at the third session, the Forum will commence to identify possible elements of an arrangement or mechanism, as stated in its mandate. Discussions, therefore, should focus on developing an agreement on a list of "elements" that would constitute the international agenda for priority action. The Forum will report on its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session, in 2000. Based on that report and depending on the decision taken by the Commission at its eighth session, the Forum will engage in further action to establish an intergovernmental negotiation process on new arrangements and mechanisms or a legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/16)

5. Other matters

6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the forthcoming session of the Forum, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation in order to enable the Forum to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Forum and their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

7. **Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session**

By its resolution 1997/65, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 1995/226, approving the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental panel on forests to pursue consensus and formulate coordinated proposals for action towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, decided to establish, under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, which will report to the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2000. The Forum is charged with promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests; reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests; and considering matters left pending as regards the programme elements of the Panel, in particular trade and environment in relation to forest products and services, transfer of technology and the need for financial resources.

Furthermore, as decided by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session (see Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 40), the Forum should identify the possible elements of and work towards consensus on international arrangements, such as a legally binding instrument (see also annotations to item 4 above).

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

The proposed organization of work for the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been drawn up on the basis of informal consultations conducted by the Co-Chairman.

Week of 3–7 May 1999

Monday, 3 May

a.m.		Plenary
		Opening of the session
	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
		General statements
	Item 2 (b)	Working Group I: programme e'ement I.b (Monitoring progress in implementation)
	Item 3 (d)	Working Group II: programme element II.d (vii) (Future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services)
p.m.	*Item 2 (b)*	Working Group I: programme element I.b (continued)
	Item 3 (d)	Working Group II: programme element II.d (vii) (continued)

Tuesday, 4 May

a.m.	*Item 3 (d)*	Working Group I: programme element II.d (i) (Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation)
	Item 3 (d)	Working Group II: programme element II.d (v) (Valuation of forest goods and services)
p.m.	*Item 3 (d)*	Working Group I: programme element II.d (ii) (Traditional forest-related knowledge)
	Item 3 (d)	Working Group II: programme element II.d (vi) (Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure)

Wednesday, 5 May

a.m.	*Item 3 (d)*	Working Group I: programme element II.d (iii) (Forest conservation and protected areas)
	Item 3 (a)	Working Group II: programme element II.a (Need for financial resources)
p.m.	*Item 3 (d)*	Working Group I: programme element II.d (iv) (Forest research)
	Item 3 (d)	Working Group II: programme element II.d (viii) (Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas)

Thursday, 6 May

a.m.	*Item 4*	Plenary
		Programme element III (International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests)
p.m.	*Item 2 (a)*	Working Group I: programme element I.a (Promoting and facilitating implementation)
	Item 3 (b)	Working Group II: programme element II.b (Trade and environment)

Friday, 7 May

a.m.	*Item 3 (e)*	Working Group I: programme element II.e (Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments)
	Item 3 (c)	Working Group II: programme element II.c (Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management)
p.m.	*Items 2–4*	Plenary
		Exchange of information on the work of the Working Groups
		Programme element III (continued)

Week of 10–14 May

Monday, 10 May

a.m.	*Item 2 (b)*	Working Group I: programme element I.b (continued)
	Item 3 (d)	Working Group II: programme elements II.d (vii) and (viii) (continued)
p.m.	*Item 3 (d)*	Working Group I: programme elements II.d (i) and (ii) (continued)
	Item 3 (d)	Working Group II: programme elements II.d (v) and (vi) (continued)

Tuesday, 11 May

a.m.	*Item 3 (d)*	Working Group I: programme elements II.d (iii) and (iv) (continued)
	Item 3 (a)	Working Group II: programme element II.a (continued)
p.m.	*Item 4*	Plenary
		Programme element III (continued)

Wednesday, 12 May

a.m.	*Items 2 (a) and 3 (e)*	Working Group I: programme elements I.a and II.e (continued)
	Item 3 (b) and (c)	Working Group II: programme elements II.b and II.c (continued)
p.m.	*Item 2 (b)*	Working Group I: programme element I.b (continued)
	Item 3 (a)	Working Group II: programme element II.a (continued)

Thursday, 13 May

a.m.	*Item 3 (d)*	Working Group I: programme elements II.d (i)–(iv) (continued)
	Item 3 (d)	Working Group II: programme elements II.d (v)–(viii) (continued)
p.m.	*Item 4*	Plenary
		Programme element III (continued)

Friday, 14 May

a.m.		Plenary
	Item 5	Other matters
p.m.	*Item 6*	Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum
	Item 7	Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session
		Closure of the third session

Annex II

Membership of the International Forum on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Algeria
Angola
Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Guyana
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Lebanon
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mozambique
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Unites States of America
Venezuela